

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the present amendment is respectfully requested. By the present amendment, claims 1, 19, 21, and 22 are amended and claims 25 and 26 are added. Claims 1-26 are pending in the application.

The Advisory Action indicated that the amendments to claims 1-24 submitted in the Amendment of May 23, 2006 were not entered. The Advisory Action did, however, indicate that claims 1-18 would be allowable. By the present amendment, claim 1 is further amended to replace "threadily connected to" with "threaded onto" and to recite that the compression fitting compresses surfaces of the fill tube and manifold together. Applicants respectfully submit that these further amendments to not affect the allowability of claims 1-18 and, accordingly, claims 1-18 should remain allowable. Notwithstanding the above, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-18 are allowable over the prior art set forth in the Office Action of March 9, 2006 for the reasons set forth below.

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Enders in view of Einsiedel et al. Enders and Einsiedel et al., however, do not teach or suggest all of the features recited in claim 1. Claim 1 is amended to recite a first compression fitting connecting the first fill tube to the manifold, the first compression fitting comprising a cap threaded onto said manifold and compressing surfaces of the manifold and the first fill tube together. Claim 1 is further amended to recite a second compression fitting connecting the second fill tube to the manifold, said second compression fitting comprising a cap threaded onto said manifold and compressing surfaces of the manifold and the second fill tube together. Neither

Enders nor Einsiedel et al. either alone or in combination teaches or suggests these features. Therefore, the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) is improper and should be withdrawn. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is allowable. Claims 2-18 depend from claim 1 and are therefore allowable as depending from an allowable claim and for the specific features recited therein.

Claims 19-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Enders in view of Einsiedel et al. and in further view of Shellabarger. Claim 19 is amended to recite that the first collar part includes an aperture that provides fluid communication with the main fluid passage through the inner surface of said first collar portion. During a telephone interview on June 14, 2006, the Examiner suggested incorporation of these features in claim 19. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 19 is allowable. Claims 20-25 depend from claim 19 and are therefore allowable as depending from an allowable claim and for the specific features recited therein.

New claim 26 recites features of claims 11, 19, and 21 in independent form. Allowance of claim 26 is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the above-identified patent application is in condition for allowance, and allowance of the above-identified patent application is respectfully requested.



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Please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment in the fees for this amendment to our Deposit Account No. 20-0090.

Respectfully submitted,

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